REGIONAL AUTOMATED PROPERTY INFORMATION DATABASE

2014 ANNUAL REPORT

Executive Summary: The Maryland State Police (MSP) Regional Automated Property Information Database (RAPID) program is now in its fifth successful year of joint partnerships with multiple agencies and states, and after five years of operation, the MSP is proud to report that the number of recoveries, cases closed and arrests continue to increase. This is true not only for Maryland, but also for our participating partner states. Effective collaboration and support of this program by law enforcement administrators and users have together made this continued success possible. During 2014, RAPID was responsible for recovering $6.6 million in recovered stolen property, bringing the total since 2009 to $24.9 million in recovered property. This represents a 30% increase from 2013. In 2014, 2,950 cases were closed (a 23% increase from 2013) and over 1,700 arrests were made (a 16% increase from 2013) as a result of this system. Since 2009, when RAPID began, cases closed have increased 473%, arrests have increased 248% and recovered value has increased by 29%. These astounding accomplishments are what make RAPID one of the most useful law enforcement tools for fighting multi-jurisdictional crime, conducting investigations, solving cases and recovering property.

RAPID – CUMULATIVE TOTALS

Year	Cases Closed	Arrests	Recovery Value
2010	515	490	$5,197,168
2011	882	642	$3,095,693
2012	2191	1321	$4,867,733
2013	2392	1471	$5,121,061
2014	2950	1704	$6,688,667
TOTAL	**8930**	**5628**	**$24,970,322**

Awards: In 2014, the Maryland State Police RAPID program received three prestigious crime prevention awards: (1) the Governor's Victim Assistance Award, (2) the International Association of Chiefs of Police Webber Seavey Award and, (3) Governor's Crime Prevention Award for the program's continued success at stolen property recovery and public outreach to the victims of crime.

RAPID Team: Over the past calendar year, the RAPID Team conducted 18 training sessions throughout the State of Maryland, attended by 190 users from Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania and Virginia. Additionally, the RAPID Team conducted business inspections of all three industries (Pawn/Precious Metal, Scrap, and Automotive Dismantler Recycler and Scrap Program) and assisted other agencies with multiple inspections, compliance checks and investigations. The program's Help Desk manages notices sent out to RAPID administrators, as well as National Capital Region (NCR) administrators, alerting them to the presence of suspicious sellers and other pertinent crime information.

New in RAPID: 2014 brought improvements to RAPID that assisted law enforcement investigators and administrators with their work:

> **Lojack for Computers**: Enhancements to this program resulted in the recovery of stolen computers that were not entered into NCIC.

> **Harmari Search:** This tool allows RAPID users to search CraigsList advertisements as part of their stolen property investigation process.

> **Quick Search:** Quick Search provides faster and more comprehensive query returns inclusive of data from all participating jurisdictions, thus ensuring results regardless of how far the stolen property/suspects have traveled throughout the State.

RAPID - PARTNERSHIPS
378 law enforcement agencies use RAPID for their investigations; as well, many agencies in Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Virginia are reporting their pawn data via the system. All Maryland sellers participate via RAPID which allows State law enforcement to identify and recover stolen property from these locations. Below is additional information on a few key program partnerships.

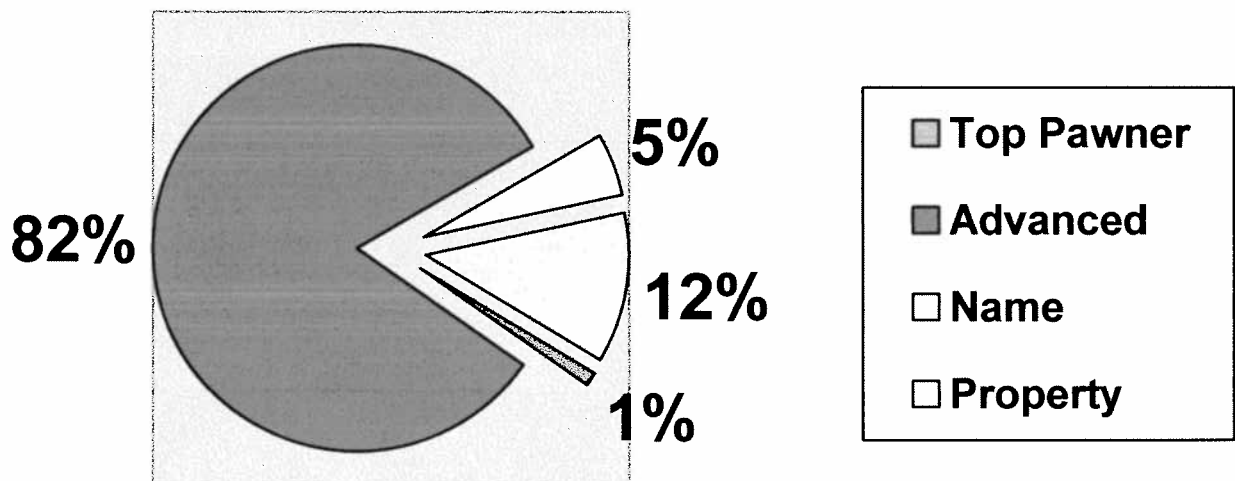|	
	Delaware: The Delaware State Police have been a valued partner in RAPID. Compliance initiatives continue, resulting in better quality data and property recovery for all users.
ₒMVA Motor Vehicle Administration	**Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA)**: Partnering with MVA investigators has been a huge success. Numerous automotive scrap dealers were inspected, resulting for some in warnings and/or citations for violations, and for others in thanks for their good work. One compliance inspection found 52% of records were missing, 34% of the vehicles were not reported in RAPID and other vehicles without the proper ownership documents. Another inspection resulted in the refusal of an Automotive Dismantler and Recyclers (ADR) license. 7 warning letters were sent to dealers, 2 were fined, and 4 are still under investigation.
BUSINESS WATCH INTERNATIONAL	**Business Watch International (BWI)**: Our partnership with BWI has been key to success of the RAPID program. This company watches over nationwide legislation, new industries affecting secondhand property, and investigates different technologies which aid law enforcement in the recovery and tracking of stolen property.

MOST USED SEARCHES

82% 5% 12% 1%

- ☐ Top Pawner
- ■ Advanced
- ☐ Name
- ☐ Property

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RAPID - 2014 USAGE BY LOCATION

Location	Users	Queries-Total	Transactions	Dealers
Anne Arundel County	144	144,038	172,589	96
Baltimore City	324	70,853	273,028	96
Baltimore County	287	261,548	205,593	117
Carroll County	224	48,877	26,913	20
Delaware	1396	159,236	366,795	191
Eastern Maryland	318	104,341	62,779	103
Frederick County	160	56,467	72,213	24
Harford County	116	181,747	49,374	32
Howard County	47	57,687	57,642	33
Maryland State Police	885	165,972	*	*
New Hampshire	71	13,612	32,150	26
Montgomery County	218	67,804	128,727	136
Prince George's County	374	46,020	363,023	95
Southern Maryland	157	64,939	108,121	37
Western Maryland	105	36,147	65,569	45
ADRS	12	1,550	519,896	195
Totals	**4,838**	**1,480,838**	**2,504,412**	**1,246**

*MSP's Transactions and Dealers totals are accounted for in other locations above.

RAPID - USAGE HISTORY

Year	Users	Dealers	Queries
2010	1559	756	113,670
2011	2062	1047	578,578
2012	2541	1189	881,246
2013	3024	1217	1,161,699
2014	4797	1264	1,478,317

Note: Statistics are self-reported by agencies and are dependent on the business processes agencies use. Many jurisdictions do not take into account subsequent recoveries from search warrants or investigation and therefore, are not reported and may reflect higher numbers and successes than reflected.

TRANSACTION COUNT BY INDUSTRY

Industry	2013	2014	Percent Increase
Jewelry	346,868	860,868	60%
Scrap Metal	1,000,549	2,462,050	59%
Vehicles	107,891	138,940	22%
Others	791,609	1,544,173	49%

Upcoming in RAPID: Among the new functionality being developed is a feature called **Home Watch.** This tool will allow citizens to enter information on their property, including photos, via a secure connection to RAPID. Should they ever become a crime victim, they can immediately go to their account and email full descriptions of their stolen property to the police and insurance company. This will help eliminate the delays between the actual crime and providing an accurate list of stolen property to law enforcement which also speeds property recovery and suspect identification.

Success Stories – The MSP has received so many stories that it is just not possible to publish all of them. We have also received appreciative comments about not only the program itself but for extending access to many of our allied agencies and partners, whether in-state or out of state.

RAPID - SUCCESS STORIES	
MARYLAND	
Anne Arundel County	Two subjects were identified who had been selling aluminum carts to several dealers. Investigation discovered that the sellers were employees of the US Post Office and that over $3.5M dollars in aluminum carts had been stolen from their offices and sold to scrap yards. The two suspects were arrested and one was sentenced to 7 years in prison. Over $150,000 worth of carts were returned to the Post Office
Baltimore City PD	Baltimore City PD investigated the theft of coins from a coin show. RAPID and RAPID e-Bay was searched and some of the coins were located. Investigation resulted in at least 3 more cases of theft from coin shows and property being sold to another coin show in Florida. This case spanned Baltimore City, Montrose CO, Austin TX, and Orlando FLA with almost $16,000 worth of coins being recovered.
Baltimore City PD	The Baltimore City Pawn/Scrap Unit investigated a theft scheme from a scrap yard in which the seller took scrap metal from his job, sold it to the scrap dealer and received cash. After the dealer closed, the suspect returned to the scrap yard, removed the property he'd just sold, and dropped it off at his job site. This seller conducted 269 transactions with a recovered value of $241,880.64.
Baltimore County	Law enforcement investigated numerous scrap copper thefts and, using RAPID, found that the suspect's wife had been selling the stolen scrap. 6 Baltimore County cases and 1 MSP case were closed with the resulting arrest.
Berlin PD	Berlin PD closed several theft cases using RAPID resulting in 4 arrests and $3320 in property recovery.
Bladensburg PD	Investigation of a theft of a GPS from a vehicle. RAPID was checked and the GPS was located and verified by the serial number. When the subject was arrested, he admitted to 10 more thefts in the same area. Since the arrest, thefts from vehicles have dropped 70% in that area.
Caroline County	Caroline County Sheriff's Office investigated the theft of scrap metal from a vacant residence. Witnesses provided a tag number which was run through RAPID and found that the metal was sold to a local dealer. Property was recovered and 3 arrests were made.
Carroll County SO	As a result of a RAPID search, 3 suspects were identified in at least 12 cell tower metal theft cases in MD and PA. Additionally, tag number information allowed the vehicle to be tracked and suspects were arrested in PA during the commission of another scrap metal tower cell crime.
Calvert County	Calvert County investigated a series of 8 residential burglaries. A property search in RAPID provided suspect information leading to arrests and 14 charges including 3 counts of extensive vandalism to the burglary residences. Over $25,000 worth of stolen jewelry, tools, and electronics was recovered.
Charles County	County law enforcement used RAPID to identify a non-compliant dealer. Investigation resulted in charging the dealer with multiple scrap and ADR violations and stolen property being recovered.
Easton PD	Easton PD investigated a theft scheme involving copper coils. RAPID provided information on the suspect and 2 cases were closed.
Frederick County Sheriff's Office	FCSO investigated multiple thefts from open houses. RAPID records were checked and the same suspect had sold/pawned property in multiple shops in Baltimore City, Baltimore County and Frederick County. Property was recovered and the seller was charged with multiple counts of burglary and thefts. Property value recovered was over $5500.

Gaithersburg City Police	Detectives checked RAPID as part of a burglary investigation. The suspect was located, as well as additional property and related sellers which resulted in 4 subsequent search warrants, 4 arrests, 4 cases closed. Over $4000 in stolen property was returned to owners.
Hagerstown PD	Investigation of a theft of tools from a home. Suspect was a prior workman at the house. RAPID was referenced and it was discovered that the suspect had sold the tools to a local shop. The suspect was charged with multiple counts of misdemeanor and felony offenses. Recovery value $1000.
Harford County Sheriff's Office	Investigators from the Harford County SO checked RAPID for stolen tools. Items were located and over $1000 worth of stolen tools were recovered from both Harford and Baltimore County shops.
Howard – Anne Arundel	Anne Arundel County PD identified suspicious jewelry transactions by one seller using a RAPID search alert. Agencies working together resulted in identifying the victim as an employee for a jewelry chain involved in internal thefts and several cases closed by arrest in Howard and Anne Arundel Counties.
Montgomery County	Investigation resulting in discovery of a seller listed as a suspect in a retail theft case in DC. Some of the recently sold items were from that DC case. Investigation is ongoing with arrests and property recovery expected.
MSP McHenry	McHenry barracks investigated a copper theft with over 16,000 pounds stolen and a value of $63,000. RAPID was checked and it was the suspect was discovered to have sold copper matching the theft. Further check of RAPID tag number and relationship features showed that his girlfriend was also selling scrap metals. Both suspects were charged and trial is pending. McHenry barracks investigated a fraud case involving jewelry, electronics, etc. A RAPID check showed 2 pieces of jewelry valued at over $13,000, originating from WV and PA, were sold in Baltimore County. A suspect was arrested and numerous cases were identified in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Maryland, New Jersey, Delaware, North Carolina, Georgia and Tennessee. Subject is being prosecuted federally in Georgia.
MSP Northeast	MSP investigated numerous reports of copper wire theft from power companies. 20 cases were identified in Cecil and Harford Counties and Lancaster and Chester Counties in Pennsylvania. 20 cases have been closed with more expected.
MSP Princess Anne	MSP investigated 4 similar burglaries, resulting in $2540 in property recovery and 2 arrests.
MSP RAPID Team	The RAPID Team located stolen property by using identifiers on the jewelry. This information was used and the identified suspect was involved in a barricade situation in another jurisdiction. Suspect was charged and property was identified in multiple jurisdictions.
MSP Washington County	The WV State Police investigated a burglary where jewelry was stolen. RAPID showed the property had been sold at a local shop. Case closed by arrest and $2,250 worth of jewelry was recovered.
Ocean City PD	Investigation determined one subject selling numerous fishing rods and other sporting equipment. A short time later, subject was identified in numerous burglaries and thefts. An arrest was made and numerous pieces of stolen property were identified and returned to the owners.
Prince George's County- MD RAPID Team- Baltimore County	Two subjects stole $3000 from a local dealer who reported them in RAPID. The subjects later negotiated the sale of 567 grams of real gold worth $11,000 and switched the real gold for fake gold. The subjects were identified by Baltimore County to be the same subjects reported to the RAPID Team by the dealer.
Princess Anne PD	While checking RAPID for property stolen from a burglary, it was learned that the property was in fact sold by the victim in a Delaware shop. The insurance company had already paid the claim to the supposed victim. Seller will be charged in the near future.
Salisbury PD	A check through RAPID was done as part of a burglary investigation. RAPID showed a maintenance man had been selling the property over a 3 month period. Property valued at $1500 was identified and recovered and seller charged.
St. Mary's County	Sheriffs investigated a frequent seller and identified property stolen from several burglaries and

	vehicle thefts. 22 cases were closed in St. Mary's and Charles Counties with 2 arrests.
Washington County Sheriff's Office	Investigators checked RAPID for a suspect in a home invasion robbery. The suspect was selling frequently at a local shop. Deputies requested that the dealer notify them when the suspect came in again. Subsequently, the suspect was arrested in the process of selling more jewelry which had just been stolen. Two cases were closed with $2000 worth of stolen property recovered.
Westminster	Westminster PD investigated a theft of aluminum from a secured area of a local business. A vehicle was seen and a tag number was run through RAPID and multiple scrap transactions were located. Case closed by arrest.
Wicomico County	Top Pawners were checked and two sellers were found with items not matching their names or initials. Investigation and subsequent search warrants resulted in closing 11 burglaries in Delaware, Pocomoke, Somerset, Wicomico and Talbot Counties with the recovery of firearms and over 600 pieces of stolen property.
Worcester County Sheriff's Office	Investigators, during a burglary investigation, used RAPID and located the stolen jewelry. Additionally, the subject had over 100 transactions and information provided to other investigators resulting in closing additional cases and recovery of property.
PENNSYLVANIA	
Penn TWP PD	A RAPID user received an email alert from RAPID about a suspect in a scrap metal case. Property had just been sold to the shop and was able to be held and recovered. The case was closed by arrest and included recovery of $2000 worth of stolen property.
New Garden TWP	New Garden Township investigated a forgery/fraud case involving two suspects. Both suspects were searched through RAPID and found to have sold several pieces of property. Investigators were also able to identify other crimes committed by the two suspects. The property was recovered and the suspects charged with the crimes.
PA State Police (PSP)	A PSP investigator checked a PA warrant in RAPID which showed that the suspect was in Delaware. Additionally, transaction records were provided to other PA investigators which resulted in closing several cases with arrests and property recovered.
West Manheim	Investigation of a series of thefts of vacuum cleaners from retail businesses. RAPID was checked and the seller was identified. Numerous cases were closed by arrest; the value of the stolen property was over $2000.
WEST VIRGINIA	
Martinsburg City PD	While investigating a theft of a camera checked RAPID. The camera was located in Hagerstown. Property was recovered and suspect charged. Property recovery value of $2000